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best be studied, — *man and nature*. The latter recognized no authority but reason; while the former undertook to carry reason over into authority. Both doubt, both examine, both wish to understand all that they can, and to be satisfied only by evidence, — a common temper which they borrow from the French mind, and a fundamental trait which brings with it many minor marks of resemblance; for instance, that clearness of speech which comes spontaneously from clearness and precision of ideas. Add to this, that Abelard and Descartes are not only Frenchmen, but that they belong to the same province, to that Brittany whose people are distinguished by so quick a sentiment of freedom and such strong personality. Hence, in these two illustrious compatriots, with their natural originality, with their disposition to admire but moderately what had been done before them and what was doing in their own time, we find independence pushed often to the quarrelsome spirit, confidence in their own strength and contempt of their adversaries, more consistency than weight in their opinions, more sagacity than breadth, more vigor in the stamp of mind and temper than elevation and profoundness in thought, more ingenuity than common sense. In fine, they are fruitful in their own notions rather than lifted to universal reason, obstinate, venturesome, radical, revolutionary.”

ART. VI. — *The History and Antiquities of Boston, and the Villages of Skirbeck, Fishtoft, Freiston, Butterwick, Benington, Leverton, Leake, and Wrangle; comprising the Hundred of Skirbeck, in the County of Lincoln. Including also a History of the East, West, and Wildmore Fens, and Copious Notices of the Holland or Haut-Huntre Fen; a History of the River Witham; the Biography of celebrated Persons, Natives of, or connected with, the Neighborhood; Sketches of the Geology, Natural History, Botany, and Agriculture of the District; a very extensive Collection of Archaisms and Provincial Words, Local Dialect, Phrases, Proverbs, Omens, Superstitions, etc.* By PISHEY THOMPSON. Illustrated with one hundred Engravings. Boston: John Noble, Jr. 1856. 8vo. pp. 824.

WE have had much to say in our pages about the value, the charm, the richness of local histories, the claims of their authors to lasting and growing gratitude, and their essential

services to the historiographer of nations and eras, in furnishing particulars for generalization, and in determining the due tone, shading, and perspective of the picture designed to comprehend a broad extent of time or territory. Let our readers intensify whatever has been thus said to the utmost point which their idea of a book's capacity can reach, and they will only thus form an adequate conception of the volume before us. This high grade of interest and merit is due equally to the author and to the subject. The author has made this the work of a lifetime. He began to collect his materials in 1804, and in 1820 published a volume, entitled "Collections for a Topographical and Historical Account of Boston, and the Hundred of Skirbeck, in the County of Lincoln." During a residence of twenty-seven years in the United States, he was still employed in gathering such materials as could be obtained on this side of the Atlantic. On his return to England, in 1846, he found that a new edition of his former work was called for, and he determined to make it as thorough and comprehensive as possible. The present work is the result of this purpose, carried into execution by the special labor of ten years, added to the researches of the previous forty. Thus we have the results of more than half a century of enlightened, judicious, and diligent toil condensed in this massive and elegant volume.

Mr. Thompson was fortunate in his subject. In population and business the Boston of the Old World bears but an insignificant proportion to her sister city of the same name in the New; but in the materials of history the proportion is much more than reversed. Traditions and ruins that date back at least as far as the invasion of Britain by Julius Cæsar form the dim and semi-mythical background of the narrative, while from the Norman conquest downward every age has left some vestiges of itself, — names, foundations, guilds, charities, architectural monuments, municipal customs, — to be traced in the town as it is. The cumulative power of centuries is profoundly felt as we turn over these pages, and then reflect that time has wrought the same work for every rood of ground in our mother country, constituting the elements of substantial greatness in every dimension, heaping up wealth

from the surplus earnings of every year's industry, creating permanent funds for almost every conceivable purpose of utility and beneficence, multiplying enduring public works and institutions indurated by immemorial prescription, covering the soil with structures whose costly foundations could have been laid only by the treasured resources of long antecedent generations, and whose successive additions and repairs far transcend the ordinary outlay of the most magnificent edifices in a new country. In this last particular alone, the town of Boston contains probably a much larger number of buildings deserving special commemoration than could be found in the entire State of Massachusetts. Mr. Thompson's plan embraces the most generous scope, and seems to have left no opening for the labors of any successor in the same field, till years shall have furnished a fresh supply of materials. In addition to a minute detail of the antiquities, history, geography, and topography of the town and the whole circumjacent region, he has given us ably and thoroughly written chapters on its geology, natural history, and archaisms, under the last head including provincialisms of speech, and local proverbs, customs, and superstitions. To these he has added the genealogies of all the principal families, and biographies of distinguished residents and natives of Boston and its vicinity. He furnishes also copious extracts from the municipal records, statistics of trade and manufactures, prices, rates and amounts of taxation, and numerous other particulars which appertain not merely to the history of that one locality, but are often the best exponents of the general condition of the country at their respective periods.

The mechanical execution of the work is in every respect worthy of its contents. The style of typography is such as is rarely issued except from the best English presses, and in point of accuracy leaves nothing to be desired. The engravings are all excellent in their kind, and the drawings on wood are as clear and firm in outline and detail as if they had been cut in steel. Such a book it is a luxury to possess and examine, in the throng of cheaply and tawdrily printed and illustrated works which are hardly worth the cost of binding.

The earliest historical notice of Boston occurs in an old

Saxon chronicle, in which it is said that "St. Botolph built a monastery here, A. D. 654, upon a desert piece of ground given him for that purpose by Ethelmund, king of the South Angles"; and though this statement has been riddled through and through by sceptical antiquaries, we think it beyond doubt that at some obscure period of British history a pious monk named Botolph built a monastery somewhere in that neighborhood, that this religious house became the nucleus of a growing population, and that, with the decline of reverence in general and a special obtuseness as to the merits of the Saxon saint, the cluster of dwellings which rejoiced in the designation of St. Botolph's town, by successive abbreviations, became Boston. In process of time it was made the site of several wealthy ecclesiastical establishments, which were dissolved by Henry VIII., who granted the fee of their lands to the town, then first incorporated as a free borough. Prior to this period it had a flourishing trade, especially in wool and leather, and was extensively engaged as early as the twelfth century in the manufacture of woollen cloth. We find during that century traces of some of the less reputable habits of trade, — "*priscæ vestigia fraudis*," — which have not yet become obsolete. Some of the king's justiciaries came to Boston to seize certain cloths of less than statutable width; but the merchants succeeded in bribing the ministers of justice to leave the cloth in their hands, to the detriment of their purchasers. About the same time, we find a statute which, if we are rightly informed, might not unaptly be enacted in our own land and day, ordering "that dyed cloths should be of equal quality throughout, and that the merchants who sold such goods should not hang up red or black cloths at their windows, nor darken them by penthouses, to prevent any from having a good light in buying their cloths." In 1205, of a tax of one fifteenth levied on goods in the hands of merchants, London paid £836, and Boston, being then in relative importance the second port in the kingdom, paid £780. At this time the town was surrounded by a wall, no vestiges of which can now be seen, but which has left evidences of its former existence in the names of several streets derived from the gates at which they terminated, as Bargate, Wormgate. The in-

habitants of the town were probably early driven to the sea by the impracticability of land-carriage; for the whole surrounding country was an undrained marsh or fen, exposed to frequent and disastrous inundations, and with causeways so ill-constructed, or so ruinous, that travellers were often drowned on the "king's highway." Carriages of course were out of the question, and pack-horses were deemed a less safe conveyance for goods than human shoulders. Thus, as in such numerous instances in all time, the very restrictions and disabilities which seemed insurmountable were the motives and stimulants to bolder and more lucrative enterprise than would else have been initiated.

Camden, writing in 1607, says of Boston : —

"Where the river Witham, enclosed on both sides with artificial banks, runs with a full stream into the sea, stands the flourishing town of Boston, more truly Botolph's town, for it took that name, as Bede testifies, from Botolph, a pious Saxon, who had a monastery at Icanhoe. It is a famous town, and built on both sides the river Witham, over which there is a very high wooden bridge; it has a commodious and well-frequented haven, a great market, a beautiful and large church, the tower of which is very high, and does as it were salute travellers at a great distance, and direct mariners. It was miserably ruined in Edward I.'s reign; for in that degenerate age, and universal corruption of manners throughout the kingdom, certain warlike men, whilst a tournament was proclaiming at fair-time, came under the disguise of monks and canons, set the town on fire in many places, broke in upon the merchants with sudden violence, and carried away many things, but burned more: insomuch that our historians write (as the ancients did of Corinth when it was demolished) that veins of gold and silver ran mixed together in one common current. Their ringleader, Robert Chamberlain, after he had confessed the fact, and detested the crime, was hanged; but could not by any means be brought to discover his accomplices. However, Boston recovered itself again, and a staple for wool, which they call Woolstaple, was here settled; which very much enriched it, and drew hither the merchants of the Hanse Company, who fixed here their guild. At this time it is a fair-built, and a trading rich town; for the inhabitants apply themselves wholly to merchandise and grazing." — *Camden's Britannia*, Gibson's ed. (London, 1695), p. 462.

The church of St. Botolph, mentioned by Camden, is the

most spacious and magnificent parish church in the kingdom. It stands on the site of an earlier church, of which we find mention in 1090. The foundation of the present tower was laid in 1309, and the nave, aisles, and a part of the chancel are believed to have been erected in the reign of Edward III. In 1843, the edifice having become much dilapidated, arrangements were made for effecting the needed repairs, which occupied a period of not less than ten years, at the cost of nearly £ 11,000. The entire building is 282 feet in length, 99 feet in breadth, with a steeple 292 feet high. Mr. Thompson enters into the most minute and elaborate detail with reference to this church, and gives us numerous drawings of its exterior aspects, its sepulchral monuments, its windows, interior *coup d'œil*, ceiling, and organ. Without resort to other than verbal painting, we can give no idea of so vast and venerable a structure within reasonable limits. But there is one portion of it in which we have a special interest. Our readers need not to be reminded that Rev. John Cotton, after having held, for the space of twenty years, the vicariate of St. Botolph's, became an exile for conscience' sake, and, as a Christian teacher and pastor in our own Boston, was largely and beneficently influential in the ordering alike of our ecclesiastical polity and of our humble essays at organized self-government. Mr. Thompson has copied from Drake's History of our Boston a woodcut, representing the low, unadorned shed, far beneath the proportions and dignity of a barn, in which he dispensed the word of life to his New England flock. In 1854, at the instance of Mr. Thompson, Rev. George Beatson Blenkin, the present vicar of St. Botolph's, wrote to Hon. Edward Everett, suggesting that the descendants of John Cotton, (among whom are the Everett family and many other of our influential New England families,) and such persons as might be disposed to unite with them, should defray the expense of restoring a chapel in the ancient church, to be called the Cotton Chapel, and to be held sacred to the memory of the holy man from whom it should derive its name. The suggestion was cordially received, and the sum of nearly £ 600 was raised for the purpose, George Peabody, with characteristic generosity, being the largest subscriber. Of the apartment designated for this use Mr. Thompson gives the following account.

"The chapel on the west side of the porch opens into the nave through two arches, the lower parts of which are fitted with a neat wooden screen, and are now [i. e. prior to the restoration] used as a vestry and record-room; it is traditionally called the Founder's Chapel, we do not know upon what authority. It was formerly used for the teaching of the school founded by Mr. John Laughton, in 1707. The vestry-books, &c., are now contained in a fine old oak-chest." — p. 188.

The large and handsome window at the western end of this chapel has been filled with glass stained in appropriate devices. The other windows have been repaired, the floor levelled and relaid, the walls scraped and cleaned, and the ceiling renewed. A monumental tablet of marble has been erected, with the following inscription, whose elegant Latinity and discriminating panegyric are due to the good judgment that designated Mr. Everett for the pious office of its preparation : * —

IN PERPETUAM JOHANNIS COTTONI MEMORIAM,
 HUIUS ECCLESIAE ANTIQUAE BOSTONIENSIS
 MULTOS PER ANNOS, REGNANTIBUS JACOBO ET CAROLO PRIMO,
 VICARII GRAVIS, DISERTI, LABORIOSI;
 DEIN PROPTER RES SACRAS IN PATRIA MISERE TURBATUS,
 NOVIS SEDIBUS IN NOVO ORBE QUÆSITIS,
 ECCLESIAE PRIMARIÆ **BOSTONIAE** NOV-ANGLORUM,
 NOMEN HOC VENERABILE
 A BOSTONIA HAC PRISCA BRITANNICA
 IN COTTONI HONOREM DEDUCENTIS,
 USQUE AD FINEM VITÆ SUMMA LAUDE,
 SUMMAQUE IN REBUS TAM HUMANIS QUAM DIVINIS AUCTORITATE,
 PASTORIS ET DOCTORIS;
 ANNIS CCXXV POST MIGRATIONEM EJUS PERACTIS,
 PROGNATI EJUS CIVESQUE BOSTONIENSES AMERICANI,
 A FRATRIBUS ANGLICIS AD HOC PIUM MUNUS PROVOCATI,
 NE VIRI EXIMIUM NOMEN,
 UTRIUSQUE ORBIS DESIDERII ET DECORIS,
 DIUTIUS A TEMPLO NOBILI EXULARET,
 IN QUO PER TOT ANNOS ORACULA DIVINA
 DILIGENTER DOCTE SANCTEQUE ENUNTIAVISSET,
 HOC SACELLUM RESTAURANDUM ET HANC TABULAM PONENDAM,
 ANNO SALUTIS RECUPERATÆ CIOIOCCCLV,
 LIBENTER GRATE CURAVERUNT.

* This chapel, on the completion of the repairs, was opened, with fitting rites, religious and festal, on the 17th of August, 1857. Several distinguished Americans were present, and made appropriate speeches, *more patrio*.

In the long line of vicars of the old church, of whom we have a complete catalogue for five centuries and a half, we find not one other name of enduring reputation, and but three that seem to have attained any extended fame in their own times. Richard Flemyng (1409–20) is mentioned by his contemporary Ingulphus “as an excellent doctor of holy theology.” His talents were enlisted successively on both sides of the great controversy of the day, he having been first a zealous defender, and afterward an equally zealous antagonist, of the doctrines of Wickliffe. He became Bishop of Lincoln, and founded Lincoln College, Oxford. Anthony Tuckney, (1633–60,) John Cotton’s kinsman and immediate successor, was a member of the Westminster Assembly of Divines, and one of the most learned and eminent among the clergy of his generation. He was, successively, Master of Emanuel College, Master of Trinity College, and Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge. His successor, Obadiah Howe, (1660–83,) was the author of several controversial and other works of marked ability. It was said of him by an opponent, “that he was a person of considerable parts and learning, but thought so most by himself.”

Of ecclesiastical edifices in Boston, not under the control of the national Church, the principal is the Wesleyan Centenary Chapel, the most spacious and elegant Dissenters’ chapel in Lincolnshire, and exceeded by few in the kingdom. It seats 2,300 persons, and was erected at a cost of £11,000. Its front presents a massive Ionic colonnade, winged by two heavy square towers but little higher than the main building. Though with great beauty of finish, it is built in a style suggestive of secular rather than of sacred uses; and but for the name it bears, we should take it for a market-house or a town-hall. Next to this in dimensions and costliness, thoroughly church-like in its architecture, and with a lofty tower and spire at its northwest corner, is the Congregational Church. We have in this volume, also, views and descriptions of a very beautiful Chapel of Ease under the auspices of the vicariate, a plain but symmetrical Unitarian Chapel, a somewhat gaudy General Baptists’ Chapel, with that mingling of orders which is often stigmatized as peculiarly American, and

Salem Chapel, occupied by the Particular Baptists, and innocent equally of architectural taste and the pretence to it. Several smaller chapels are mentioned, among others, one belonging to the "Primitive Methodists, or Ranters." The population of the town in 1851 was 14,997, and the number of sittings in the various places of worship can fall but little, if any, short of the number of persons capable at any one time of attending religious services.

The river Witham divides the town into two nearly equal parts. It is, in fact, or would be among our American rivers, but an insignificant stream, being at Boston, only five miles from the sea, less than thirty yards wide. Obstructions to its navigation had been suffered to accumulate unheeded, till in the last century it had ceased to be navigable. The channel has recently been cleared, and vessels of 300 tons can now be laden at Boston, whence small steamers and barges ply to Lincoln, twenty-eight miles farther up the stream. In 1847, Boston had of registered vessels 186, measuring 8,768 tons. Its chief imports are Baltic produce, coal, and manufactured goods; its exports, oats, wool, and woad, which last-named article of commerce is very extensively produced in this vicinity.

"A singular circumstance has long been noticed respecting certain tides in the Witham and the Welland, called 'Bird Tides.' These occur annually about midsummer, and are almost always much lower than any others throughout the year, leaving the green marshes on the borders of these rivers free from any visitation of the tidal waters, although they are mostly more or less covered by the spring-tides at all other seasons. The occurrence of these low tides about the time when the numerous sea and land birds that frequent these marshes are hatching their eggs there, thus giving them time to perfect that operation without the destructive intervention of the salt water, has caused the country people to say, that '*the tides are lower at that season in order that the birds may hatch and raise their young.*' No doubt the success of the latter operation is secured by the smallness of these tides; and perhaps an adequate cause for their usual regular occurrence may be found in the almost entire absence of high winds, and a prevalence of calm, sultry weather, at the annual period of the Bird Tides. These small tides are noticeable, we believe, very generally throughout the borders of the estuary." — p. 367.

In an American town, or rather city, (for we have no remaining *towns* so large,) of fifteen thousand inhabitants thus situated on both sides of a narrow stream, we might very probably see half a dozen fragile plank bridges, in various stages of decay. We cannot learn that Boston has more than one bridge; but that is a noteworthy structure, resting upon a single arch of cast-iron, which exceeds in weight two hundred tons, and which has the foundation of its abutments four feet below the deepest part of the bed of the river. The entire cost of building this bridge was nearly £ 22,000. What a contrast to the tremulous and rotting cobwork which, not only on our routes of common travel, but even on our railways, often spans rapid streams and precipitous ravines, and whose architects and superintendents enable us to conceive of the Hindoo Thugs — murderers by profession — as a possible sect! *

Hardly anything in Mr. Thompson's book has interested us equally with the engravings of various quaint old houses, most of which still nestle unchanged in the heart of the town, while others were not permitted to yield place to modern edifices till, like venerated ancestral forms, they had left their likenesses for a generation to come. There is, for instance, the tavern in which Cromwell slept on the night before the battle of Winceby, and it looks as if it held as many labyrinthal passages and recesses inaccessible to daylight as were in the multiform and unfathomable nature of the great soldier-statesman. There is the house where John Fox was born, and we can hardly conceive that it should not by its almost fearful sombreness have shaped the features of even its infant nurse-ling into the savage grimness which marks the portraits of the old martyrologist, and have fostered that love of the horrible which seems to have been his passion and his joy. There is the vicarage where John Cotton lived, — it was taken down in 1850, and well it might be; for it had an antique majesty

* Is this too strong language in view of facts familiarly known? It was not a solitary or unmatched fact, which appeared on the inquest upon the bodies of those recently murdered on the New York Central Railroad, near Utica, — that the local functionaries of the railway had for several days been fully aware of the decayed and perilous condition of the bridge whose failure was thus fatal.

and solemnity, which made it an ill-befitting residence in an age when the last vestiges of stately ceremoniousness are disappearing from the dress, mien, and manners of our times. We might multiply our specifications; but without the engravings it is vain for us to attempt the representation of the broad, low lattices, the open rafters and oaken arches running among the brick and stone work, the frowning gables, and the masses of deep shadow, which, variously and lawlessly combined, render each of these edifices unique and profoundly impressive. Alternating with them, the Sessions-House, the Athenæum, the New Assembly Rooms, and other modern buildings for various uses, in the pride of faultless symmetry and sumptuous ornament, look even mean and paltry, as if they had no history and could never hold a history. There is, indeed, this distinction between the architectural monuments of a long-past age and the more normal structures of our own, that whatever human presences have once dwelt in the former seem lodged there for ever, while nothing of human character adheres to the latter,—they acquire no personality, but are as public and common as the streets over which they frown.

Among the curious matters presented to the reader are numerous extracts from the Corporation Records and the Parish Registers. In 1575, an ordinance is passed requiring "Brewers, before they tunne their ale and beer, to send for the ale-tunners to taste the same, to see that it is good wholesome drink." In 1549, it is forbidden to any "coal-laden ship to sell coal upon the water, out of the ship, above the price fixed by the Mayor." In 1655, it is ordered that "upon any day of solemn rejoicing, only 40 s. was to be spent." At the close of the sixteenth century, "when any stranger brought goods or victuals of any kind by ship for sale, the Mayor fixed the price at which the *freemen* should, for three days, purchase them for their own use, after which they and non-freemen purchased upon the best terms they could." In 1583, it is made necessary for "every Mayor, at the expiration of his mayoralty, to pay over the ballance of his account, or be committed to prison till it is paid." In 1590, we find "the Mayor allowed a hogsh-head of wine for his better provision of house-keepynge." In 1601, it is "ordered, that there be given to Sir Thomas Mon-

son, knight, for the redeeming of his love and friendship to this Corporation, 6 l. 13 s. 4 d.; *because it cannot be otherwise gotten or obtained*, though many means by friends hathe heretofore been used for the same." In 1557, it is "ordered, that if any alderman swear, either by the masse, or any other part or member of God, in the Hall, or any other place, he shall pay for every othe so taken, ii d.; and lykewyse every one of the Common Council shall paye for every lyke defaute, i d." We make no comments; but the question may suggest itself as to these analects, taken from the successive pages of excerpts arranged in the alphabetical order of subjects, whether as regards municipal economy and the accountableness of men in power and trust the former times were not better than our own. On the Parish Register for 1795, we find admiring mention of perhaps the largest family on record out of the purlious of *simultaneous* polygamy. "William Mason, labourer, *father of forty-six children*, born in wedlock by five wives; buried 16th March, aged seventy-two."

In the glossary of provincialisms, we find very many that are completely naturalized in and around our own Boston, thus indicating the large contributions to the early stock of our own population derived from our elder name-sister. We take the following, — few from among many, — in the order in which they meet our eye. "Apple-pie-order." "Argufy." "Bannisters. — The rails or balustrade of a staircase." "Chok-full." "Chunky. — Short; thick; clumsy in shape and person." "Crease. — A mark made in paper by being folded, or in a garment by being sat upon." "Down in the mouth." "Father long-legs. — The slender, long-legged crane-fly." "Good mind. — A strong inclination to do anything." "Heft." "High time." "Hitch on." "Jabber." "Keeping-room." "Kindling. — Materials for lighting a fire." "Mash-tub." "May-be." "Out-and-out." "Quality. — Gentry." "Right up and down." "Scamp." "Stumpy." "Tip over." "Unlicked. — Unpolished." "Water *bewitched*. — Weak tea, punch, &c." "Wile away. — To *wile away* the time; beguile it."

Among the proverbial sayings of old Boston we recognize not a few which we had supposed indigenous to our own soil.

Such are the following : — “ He ’s in the wrong box.” “ It rains cats and dogs.” “ I ’ll go through thick and thin for you.” “ As dead as a door-nail.”

Of omens respecting the weather, the short list given by Mr. Thompson corresponds point by point to the popular, but, as we believe, untrustworthy signs current among us.

“ Evening red and morning gray
Are sure signs of a fine day.

“ A mackerel-sky foretells rain.

“ If a cat washes over her ear, it is a sign of fine weather.

“ When a dog or cat eats grass, it betokens approaching rain.

“ When a number of black snails are out on an evening, it will rain during the night.

“ When the swallows fly low, rain is at hand.

“ When it rains with the wind in the east,
It will rain for twenty-four hours at least.” — p. 735.

In biographical reminiscences the history of Boston is singularly rich. Its calendar commences with St. Botolph, who is said to have died A. D. 680. According to a well-accredited legend, he redeemed the spot still associated with his name for human habitation.

“ That region was as much forsaken by man as it was possessed by demons, whose fantastic illusion by the coming of the holy man was to be immediately put to flight and the pious conversation of the faithful substituted in its place, so that where up to that time the deceit of the devil had abounded, the grace of our beneficent founder should more abound. Upon the entry therefore of the blessed Botulph, the blackest smoke arises, and the enemy, knowing that his own flight was at hand, cries out with horrid clamor, saying, ‘ This place which we have inhabited for a long time, we thought to inhabit for ever ; why, O Botulph ! most cruel stranger, dost thou violently drive us from these seats ? In nothing have we offended thee, in nothing have we disturbed your right ; what do you seek in our expulsion ? what do you wish to establish in this region of ours ? and, after being driven out of every corner of the world, do you expel us wretched even out of this solitude ? ’ But the blessed Botulph, having made the sign of the cross, put all his enemies to flight, and by the powerful virtue of words, — a virtue conceded to him from Heaven, — he forbids them that region.” — p. 371.

George Ripley, second in fame to no alchemist of the six-

teenth century, was born and died in Boston. Of John Fox we have already spoken. Ordained by Ridley, an ardent friend of the Reformation, in its van during the Marian persecution, it is worthy matter of surprise that he should not have been painted in a fiery winding-sheet in the Martyrology which he lived to write. Dr. William Stukeley, the celebrated antiquary, and Dr. Patrick Blair, the author of the first systematic treatise on Botany in the English language, though not natives, were both residents of Boston. Rev. Dr. Andrew Kippis, equally distinguished for piety, learning, eloquence, and fine social powers, and made memorable to posterity by his "*Biographia Britannica*," was a native of Boston, as were his ancestors for several generations. Of families eminent for rank and antiquity, belonging to the town or its immediate vicinity, or intimately associated with its history, we have the Tilney family, dating from the time of Edward the Confessor; the Hollands of Estovenning; the Kyme family, settled in Lincolnshire before the Norman Conquest; the Irby family, first known to fame six centuries ago; the Hussey family, knights and nobles, of nearly the same antiquity; the Hutchinson family, celebrated in the annals of our Cisatlantic Boston; the Earls of Holland; and the Viscounts Boston, the last of whom died, without male issue, in 1754.

We confess a still deeper interest in the natives or residents of the English Boston, whose names are intimately associated with the early days, or are still borne in honor in the contemporary history, of our own city and State. Foremost among these, on every ground of precedence, is John Cotton. He was born at Derby, of an ancient and honorable family, was a graduate of the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of Magdalen College. He had been about two years vicar of St. Botolph's, when he began to feel conscientious scruples as to many of the required ceremonies of the Church. The only course open to him was non-conformity; and in this he was sustained for many years, with slight and transient difficulties, by the sanctity of his character, the soundness of his doctrine, and the gratitude of those who enjoyed his ministrations. At length he was summoned before the High Commissioners. He applied to the Earl of Dorset for his intercession with the government,

which proved unavailing through the opposition of Archbishop Laud. The Earl candidly "informed Mr. Cotton, that if he had been guilty of drunkenness, uncleanness, or any such lesser fault, he could have obtained his pardon ; but as he was guilty of Puritanism and Non-conformity, the crime was unpardonable ; and therefore he advised him to flee for his safety." Mr. Cotton then, in a letter fraught with the manly dignity and independence of spirit befitting his holy calling, resigned the vicarage of Boston into the hands of the Bishop of Lincoln. He was afterward concealed for a time in London. In disguise, and under a feigned name, he eluded pursuit on his way to the Downs, and took passage there for New England. As is well known, he at once rose, by the necessity of his own character, culture, and industry, to the first place in the infant colony, over whose affairs he may be truly said to have presided, and in whose arduous service he labored with indefatigable zeal for nearly as many years as he had occupied with like fidelity his pastorate in his native land. Of him Increase Mather, his son-in-law, writes : " Both Bostons have reason to honor his memory, and the New England most of all, which oweth its name and being to him, more than to any other person in the world."

Mr. Cotton was accompanied or speedily followed to New England by Richard Bellingham, who had been Recorder of Boston for eight years previously. Mr. Bellingham was Deputy-Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony for thirteen years, and Governor for ten. He was a lawyer by education, and left a high reputation for integrity and piety. Yet he seems to have been an impracticable man in his official intercourse, was often at variance with his brother magistrates, and, with prematurely liberal and even democratic views of government, maintained the utmost rigidity of discipline against the Quakers and other sectaries. Hubbard writes concerning him : " He was a great justiciary, a notable hater of bribes, firm and fixed in any resolution he entertained, of larger comprehension than expression, like a vessel whose vent holdeth no good proportion with its capacity to contain, — a disadvantage to a public person." On one important occasion, it would appear that the sentinel virtues nodded over their camp-

fire, and the old Puritan was surprised by the enemy whose conquests level all distinctions. A young lady, about to be married to a friend of his, so struck his fancy as adapted to succeed the wife of his youth, whom he had recently laid in the grave, that he contrived to supplant her affianced bridegroom. In the haste and shame of the transaction, he omitted the prescribed form of publication, and served as the officiating magistrate at his own nuptials. The grand jury presented him to the General Court for these irregularities; but he was *ex officio* the presiding magistrate, and, as he declined leaving the bench for the bar, the case was not adjudicated.

Thomas Leverett, probably a native, certainly for many years a resident, of Boston, and successively of the Common Council, coroner, and alderman of the borough, was one of John Cotton's companions on his voyage to America, and was ordained a ruling elder of the church in our own Boston shortly after his arrival. It cannot be ascertained of what profession he was. There is no proof of his having been a lawyer; but he seems to have assisted his friend and pastor in a semi-legal capacity during the pendency of the measures which resulted in his exile. He was a man of eminent uprightness, ability, and discretion. It was his son who succeeded Beltingham as Governor, and was knighted by Charles II., — not, however, by his own seeking or desire; for, with the instinctive prescience befitting the chief magistrate of a state in training for republican institutions, he concealed his title so far as he was able, and made use of it on no occasion whatever. The family traits were merged in the next generation, the Governor's son, Hudson, being said "to have maintained but an indifferent character." They reappeared, however, in Hudson's son, the President of Harvard University, whose previous eminence as a legislator, magistrate, and judge, together with his signal firmness and vigor in his academic office, was appealed to as a precedent, when, some thirty years ago, the administration of the College was for the second time put into the hands of a distinguished statesman and jurist.

John Cotton was also accompanied to the *New World* by Atherton Hough, who had been promoted to various offices of trust and honor in Boston, was Mayor of the borough in

1627, and resigned a seat in the Board of Aldermen on the eve of his embarkation. He filled and adorned places in the Colony corresponding to those which had been awarded him in the land of his birth.

Three years after Mr. Cotton's emigration, there came to New England Rev. Samuel Whiting, son of John Whiting, who had been Mayor of Boston, and whose family had appeared on the municipal records for more than three centuries. Mr. Whiting became the first minister of Lynn. He was distinguished for the elegance of his Latin composition in an age when the Latin was almost a vernacular tongue among the learned, and for his Hebrew scholarship at a period when sermons were not infrequently garnished with texts in crude Hebrew. Nor was he less eminent for the amiableness of his disposition and the sanctity of his life. Of his sons, one was the first minister of Billerica; a second, after taking his degree at Harvard University, returned to England, and became Rector of Leverton; and a third was his father's colleague and successor in the ministry. In the next generation of the same family was Rev. John Whiting, the second minister of Concord. The English branches of the family are now extinct; the transplanted scion still flourishes, and bears in its veins the flavor derived from the parent stock.

Edmund Quincy came to America with Mr. Cotton, whose weight of character and influence can have no higher attestation than in the number and worth of those who joined him as companions of his exile. The Quincy family was an ancient and numerous family in Lincolnshire, and Edmund emigrated from the village of Fishtoft, near Boston. He was the ancestor of our many distinguished compatriots who have borne and still bear his name, as also of John Quincy Adams and Chief Justice Cranch.

Many other names of well-known families of early date in our own city are familiar in the English Boston, thus rendering it in the highest degree probable that in the choice of a name for the capital of the Bay Colony, though the transcendent merit of the first minister was the ostensible motive, the fond remembrances and home yearnings of many of his flock may have borne part.

We have no space to enter upon the history of the neighboring villages, each of which has its antiquities, its quaint and curious records, its eleemosynary foundations, and its peculiar features of interest. Nor can we follow our author in the history of the Lincolnshire fens, which, from little else than a vast marsh, infested by legendary dragons, and the theatre for the heroism of fabulous dragon-slayers, have been so far reclaimed by scientific and costly drainage, as to be studded with thriving villages, and to furnish a rich virgin soil for agriculture. The whole valley of the Witham, and the sea-coast for many miles on either side of its mouth, present many features analogous to those of Holland, and large districts have been redeemed for human habitancy and tilth by the same means by which the Dutch won their territory from the ocean. The success which has thus far attended the enterprise gives sure presage of the fulfilment of the prediction made by Dr. Stukely in 1724: — “ I doubt not but some time the whole bay between Lincolnshire and Norfolk (being one of our great sovereign’s noblest chambers in his British dominions over the sea) will become dry land.”

We have done very imperfect justice to the work under review. Its materials are, many of them, such as have vivid interest *in situ*, but as miscellaneous excerpts would only weary and repel the reader. The book as a whole presents the topography and history of the town and district in a panoramic view, which one may transfer to the mental retina as a finished picture, while the details out of their grouping would lose their individuality. The volume gives us an elaborately drawn section of English history, society, and institutions, — a microcosm typical of that macrocosm which we call our fatherland. It is not a book to be read through and laid aside, — no one would read it through; but it would be taken from the shelf year after year with new zest, and could hardly be opened at any page without offering that which would attract and reward perusal. Especially should it be in the hands of cultivated and inquiring men in our own city, and we trust that at their hands, as near his own home, Mr. Thompson may receive the substantial honor and reward which his indefatigable diligence in research, and his excellent taste in selection and compilation, so well deserve.